

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. Not only does the merger allow for local programing it more importantly frees people from the run away cost of cable. You see in my area comcast cable charges 45.99 for expanded basic system after taxes and sercharges the cost rises to over\$50.00 a month. With satellite service I can get all the programing that cable offers for about \$10 to \$15 cheaper each month.

I live in a location where standard TV reception is bothered by outside interference. You see I live right next to the amtrak train system (north east spur). Every 45 minutes to an hour a train goes by ruining the reception for my tv. As I stated earlier comcast is to expensive compared to satellite.It is my belief that the merger will have nothing but a great benefit for all subcribers.

I erge you to seriously consider approving the merger for the benefit of the constituents that you were elected to serve.

And further more I think it's a shame when you have to ask permission from a local TV station in order to watch national networks (abc, nbc, cbs). where did the freedom of choice go? If we had such a thing in all areas then permission would not be needed to watch the national networks (abc, nbc, cbs). The fact that the local stations can deny access to national broadcasts puts satellite at an unfair disadvantage this should not be allowed to happen! I am now and always will be a happy satellite subscriber.

Sincerely,

Leonard Horner II
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Baltimore, MD 21220